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ABSTRACT

This book provides an overview of the causes and symptoms, and the typical courses, treatments, and outcomes of neurogenic communication disorders. Chapter 1 reviews the human nervous system and neurologic causes of adult communication disorders. Chapter 2 discusses the neurologic assessment and arriving at a diagnosis, including the neurologist's use of the patient's current complaints and medical history, the neurologic examination, and the results of laboratory tests. Chapter 3 addresses the steps for assessing neurogenic communication impairments: (1) reviewing information found in referral documents and medical records; (2) evaluating the consequences of brain damage; and (3) interviewing and testing the patient. Chapter 4 discusses assessment of aphasia and related disorders, including how to assess language and communication, auditory comprehension, reading, speech production, and written expression. The effects of managed care on the assessment of neurogenic communication disorders are also discussed. Chapter 5 describes the roles that different professionals play in working on treatment teams, general characteristics of treatment sessions, adjusting treatment tasks to the patients, and how clinicians decide what to treat. Chapters 6 through 10 focus on the treatment of specific disorders, including aphasia and related disorders, right hemisphere syndrome, traumatic brain injury, dementia, and dysarthria. An appendix defines standard medical abbreviations and a glossary is included. (Contains over 500 references.) (CK)

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